

2007 WEST NILE VIRUS SURVEILLANCE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Arizona Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

- 1) Please refer to the *West Nile Virus Surveillance: Selection Criteria for Bird Submissions*
- 2) Recently dead birds only. Do NOT submit birds with chronic illness OR non-neurological illness prior to death.
- 3) Preference for corvids (crows, ravens, jays), raptors, exotic species (especially from zoos), grackles, sparrows, and finches. Baby birds, pigeons, and indoor pet birds will NOT be accepted for WNV testing. Doves are not likely to be sick with West Nile virus. (Please refer to *Selection Criteria* for further information.)
- 4) Wear protective gloves, or if not available, use an inverted plastic bag to pickup dead birds.
- 5) Place each specimen in a separate sealable plastic bag and refrigerate **as soon as possible**. **Do not freeze.**
- 6) Add submission form with information including: name, address, phone of submitting party, specific address where bird was found, history including clinical signs or evidence of illness in other birds, species, age if known, and date found. Please fill out separate forms for birds collected from different sites.
- 7) Ship overnight in provided Saf-T-Pak® with ice packs, as described on the AzVDL website at <http://microvet.arizona.edu/AzVDL/index.shtml> (click on “packing and shipping”).
- 8) Appropriate leak-proof shipping containers (ex. Saf-T-Pak®) must be used, which includes a sealable biohazard bag, a special white, absorbent envelope, and a shipping container consisting of a Styrofoam box which fits perfectly inside the provided cardboard box, with specific labeling:
 - a. Place bird in the provided clear, sealable biohazard bag (small and large sizes of these bags are available).
 - b. Place the bagged bird inside the provided white, absorbent envelope from Saf-T-Pak and seal this envelope (small and large sizes of these envelopes are available).
 - c. Place the bagged and enveloped bird(s), sealed ice packs, and submission form (in a separate Ziploc bag to keep dry), inside the shipping container. Do not use loose ice.
 - d. Shipping container is a styrofoam container encased in a cardboard box.
- 9) Properly seal the shipping container with heavy duty shipping tape, attach the shipping document (usually a FEDEX air-bill).
- 10) The outside of the shipping container should have affixed the following labels:
 - a. UN3373 (can be printed on box, not necessarily a label).
 - b. "Diagnostic Specimen packed in accordance with IATA Packing Instructions 650"
- 11) Ship to:

Arizona Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
2831 North Freeway

Tucson, Arizona 85705-5021

Do not ship on Friday. Hold bird in refrigerator until Monday and ship as above. If desired, use the AzVDL Fed Ex number and complete the shipping tag with "bill recipient". The account number is 1381-3559-4. Designate the "Priority Overnight". **DO NOT CHECK THE "FIRST OVERNIGHT" BOX.**

- 12) Saf-T-Pak containers will be returned, refurbished with biohazard bags and white absorbent envelopes, and condition of outside labels will be checked for condition.
- 13) The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) and the University of Arizona Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (AzVDL) support West Nile virus testing. AzVDL staff will perform immunohistochemical staining and/or oral swabs testing specific for West Nile virus only. **If additional diagnostic testing is desired, please contact AzVDL staff at (520) 621-2356 to make arrangements for additional tests and for appropriate billing.**
- 14) For questions: Call AzVDL (520) 621-2356 or ADHS at (602) 364-4562.